

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06863 150829Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8868

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 6863

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EGEN, TU

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT ON PRICE INCREASES

REF: A) ANKARA 5820, B) ANKARA 6821

1. PRESS COMMENT OF SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14 ON THE PACKAGE OF PRICE INCREASES ANNOUNCED BY GOT ON SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9 HAS MOSTLY BEEN MORE REALISTIC THAT OPPOSITION LEADER BULENT ECEVIT'S PARTISAN ATTACK DESCRIBED IN REFTEL B.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 14, HURRIYET COLUMNIST OKTAY Eksi CRITICIZED ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY ECEVIT TOWARDS PRICE INCREASES, AND HIS CALL FOR STRIKES. THIS ATTITUDE WILL ONLY AGGRAVATE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND INDIRECTLY HARM THE WORKERS WHOM THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN CHAMPIONS. WRITERE HOPED HIS INTERPRETATION OF ECEVIT'S ATTITUDE WAS WRONG, FOR HE DEEMED IT UNWORTHY OF RPP CHAIRMAN.

3. CONSERVATION TERCUMAN'S GUNERI CIVAOGU COMMENTED THAT AT TIME OF SUCH DIFFICULTY, COUNTRY NEEDS CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION RATHER THAN ECEVIT'S INCITING CLASS QUARRELS
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FOR PRICE RISES SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT WERE MADE IN 1974 WHEN HE WAS IN POWER. COLUMNIST ALSO CRITICIZED TURKISH LABOR FEDERATION PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC FOR LEADING PROTEST AGAINST PRICE RISES BEFORE GIVING GOT TIME TO IMPLEMENT ITS ENTIRE ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

4. MILLIYET'S ABDI IPEKCI CRITICIZED THE PRICE HIKES AS

INEQUITABLE AND INADEQUATE. HE STATED THAT TAXATION WOULD HAVE BEEN A MORE EQUITABLE WAY OF DECREASING CONSUMPTION AND INCREASING SAVINGS, BUT THAT IF PRICES MUST BE INCREASED THIS WAY, THE INEQUITY CAN BE CORRECTED BY TAXATION. THE PRICE HIKES ARE INADEQUATE BECAUSE THEY DISCOURAGE EXPORTS INSTEAD OF ENCOURAGING THEM. THEY SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DEVALUATION TO OFFSET PRICE INCREASES AT HOME AND PERMIT INCREASED SALES ABROAD. IN ADDITION, WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS SHOULD BE USED TO CURB THE INFLATIONARY EFFECTS OF SUCH GOVERNMENT MEASURES, HE WROTE.

5. GUNAYDIN'S AHMET KADIRBESEGIL COMMENTED THAT GENERAL REACTION AGAINST RECENT PRICE INCREASES HAS HELPED SOLIDIFY THE RANKS OF THE THREE PARTIES IN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IN DEFENSE OF THEIR PROGRAM, BUT HE WONDERED HOW LONG THIS WOULD LAST. HE PREDICTED THE COALITION'S FATE WILL BE DETERMINED AT LOCAL ELECTIONS AND DURING BUDGET DEBATES. SPIERS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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